

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2026–27	\$13,543.5m
Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 198 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.....	\$159.8m
In addition, there will be an estimated 18 directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.	
Commitment balance	\$274,238.7m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (2) Commerce and Industry	This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (3) Telecommunications Programme (4) Broadcasting	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (5) Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection	This programme contributes to Policy Area 4: Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council	This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (7) Subvention: Consumer Council Programme (8) Subvention: Competition Commission	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 4: Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	16.5	16.8	16.7 (–0.6%)	16.9 (+1.2%)
				(or +0.6% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Programme (2): Commerce and Industry

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	13,445.9	12,909.1	11,583.3 (–10.3%)	12,540.1 (+8.3%)
				(or –2.9% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

4 The aim is to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong’s role as an international trade centre under the National 15th Five-Year Plan. The Bureau seeks to encourage Hong Kong’s trading partners, through multilateral, regional and bilateral means, to remove barriers to trade and investment; to promote Hong Kong’s strengths so as to maintain international business confidence in Hong Kong; to develop Hong Kong as a competitive and knowledge-based economy by increasing the added value and productivity of Hong Kong’s industries and enhancing the long-term competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs); to foster our trading and investment ties with the Chinese Mainland and support our businesses in seizing the opportunities created by the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), particularly in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI); to attract external direct investment into Hong Kong and to foster economic and trade exchanges and co-operation with Taiwan, China; and to maintain a modern and comprehensive intellectual property (IP) regime which complies fully with international standards and develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre in accordance with the National 15th Five-Year Plan.

Brief Description

5 The Bureau’s main responsibilities under this programme are to:

- formulate policies on promotion of trade in goods and services;
- formulate policies to attract more external direct investment into Hong Kong;
- institute measures and arrangements to facilitate international trade and gain market access for Hong Kong’s goods, services and investment, including through forging free trade agreements (FTAs) and investment promotion and protection agreements (IPPAs);
- oversee the policy work related to the overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), including enhancing their functions and expanding the ETO network;
- enhance economic co-operation with trading partners and foster friendship and understanding between the business communities of Hong Kong and our major markets;
- promote and safeguard market access of Hong Kong’s goods and services through overseeing Hong Kong’s active participation in the multilateral trading system, including seeking further trade liberalisations under the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- foster greater regional co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region through overseeing Hong Kong’s active participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);
- enhance mutually beneficial economic relationship between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland through CEPA;
- provide support to local businesses in developing overseas and Mainland domestic sales markets;
- formulate policies to support SMEs;
- lead and co-ordinate the work on the B&RI, including strategy formulation and implementation of programmes and measures with a view to seeking out Belt and Road (B&R)-related business opportunities;
- formulate policies on protection of IP rights and the development of Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre;
- formulate policies and implementation proposals on the development of the Trade Single Window (TSW) in Hong Kong; and
- support the further development of wine and liquor-related businesses in Hong Kong.

6 During 2025–26, the Bureau:

- steered the work of the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force) and co-ordinated various bureaux, departments and agencies in formulating diverse proposals for Mainland enterprises to leverage Hong Kong’s strengths to expand their businesses overseas as well as establishing high-value-added supply chain centres in Hong Kong to manage more off-shore trading and business in overseas countries;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- continued to collaborate with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), overseas ETOs and Investment Promotion Units as well as various departments, agencies and stakeholders in conducting external promotion work through the “Economic and Trade Express” (ETE) platform, with a view to consolidating and enhancing Hong Kong’s position as an international trade centre and investment hub through our overseas network and creating two-way trade flows;
- set up a new ETO in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2025, which would work together with the existing ETOs in Singapore, Jakarta and Bangkok to strengthen Hong Kong’s economic and trade ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and neighbouring countries;
- continued to strengthen overseas ETOs’ support for and collaboration with various departments, agencies and stakeholders, including cultural promotion work in support of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, business and talent attraction work in support of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises led by the Financial Secretary, Hong Kong Talent Engage under the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Task Force on Study in Hong Kong led by the Education Bureau;
- continued to oversee the work of Invest Hong Kong in stepping up efforts to attract more overseas and Mainland enterprises to set up and expand their businesses in Hong Kong;
- supported the Financial Secretary in leading the relevant policy bureaux, departments, and public organisations in formulating packages of preferential policies including land grants, land premium, financial subsidies and tax incentives, to attract high value-added industries and high-potential enterprises to set up in Hong Kong;
- continued to closely monitor the bilateral trade relations between the Chinese Mainland and other economies such as the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) as well as their trade actions or other measures against Hong Kong and their impact on Hong Kong’s economy; and maintained close communication with the trade;
- continued to safeguard Hong Kong’s rights and interests by taking actions under the WTO framework as necessary; and maintained close communication with the trade;
- oversaw participation in the work of the WTO, including preparing for the entry into force of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in September 2025; safeguarding Hong Kong’s rights through contributing to the ongoing negotiations and discussions at the WTO, and monitoring and responding to trade restrictive measures which impacted on Hong Kong’s trade interests and posed systemic risks to the multilateral trading system;
- oversaw participation in the APEC for strengthening regional economic integration, promoting free and open trade and investment, as well as sustainability in the region and implementing the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action;
- oversaw the intensified engagement with members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to consolidate support for Hong Kong’s early accession, the conclusion of IPPAs with Qatar, Peru and Bangladesh, and IPPA negotiations with, among others, Saudi Arabia and Egypt;
- served as the Secretariat of the Working Group on Promoting Silver Economy led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration in co-ordinating efforts of relevant bureaux to implement measures for developing silver economy in five areas;
- worked with the Trade and Industry Department (TID) to enhance the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund), including expanding the geographical scope of “E-commerce Easy” to the ten ASEAN countries, expanding the funding scope of “Easy BUD” to include the establishment of online sales platforms, providing targeted funding support for enterprises to implement green transformation projects, and implementing various rationalisation measures;
- worked with TID to enhance the SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF), including implementing various rationalisation measures and the special measure to expand the funding scope of the EMF up to 30 June 2026 to cover exhibitions targeting the local market and online exhibitions, and to relax the eligibility criteria to cover non-SMEs;
- worked with HKTDC to set up more Hong Kong Pavilions or brand showcases in Chinese Mainland and overseas exhibitions and launch the “E-Commerce Express”, including the organisation of the second edition of the Hong Kong Shopping Festival (HKSF) in August 2025, to promote the awareness of Hong Kong brands and assist SMEs in tapping into non-local e-commerce market;
- worked with HKMC Insurance Limited, the administrator of the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS), to enhance the SFGS, including relaunching the principal moratorium arrangement, extending the application and maximum loan guarantee periods as well as introducing partial principal repayment options for the 80% and 90% guarantee products, so as to alleviate the repayment burden on SMEs;
- continued to work with the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (HKECIC) to enhance export credit insurance coverage for exporters through various support measures such as extending the geographical coverage of free buyer credit checks to all insured markets and co-operating with more financial institutions to enhance support for exporters in acquiring trade financing relevant to e-commerce;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- continued to implement the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) to provide funding support for non-profit-making industry-led projects aimed at increasing exchanges and co-operation of Hong Kong's professional services with their counterparts in external markets, promoting relevant publicity activities, and enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services, including implementing the Professionals Participation Subsidy Programme (PSP) under PASS to subsidise major professional bodies to participate in relevant activities for stepping up promotion of Hong Kong's competitive edges and professional services to the Mainland and overseas markets after the pandemic has stabilised;
- pursued actively the B&RI by organising business and professional services missions, including the infrastructure and construction mission to Indonesia and Malaysia in June 2025, and the infrastructure and green development mission to Vietnam in December 2025; furthering policy co-ordination with the Central Authorities through the eighth Joint Conference on Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative (Joint Conference) held in July 2025; organising the tenth Belt and Road Summit in September 2025 which attracted around 6 200 government officials, business leaders and representatives of enterprises; organising a series of exchange and sharing sessions to promote partnership and project interfacing amongst local professional services sector, chambers of commerce, and enterprises from the Chinese Mainland, overseas and Hong Kong; and taking forward promotion efforts, including publication of a booklet on Hong Kong as a participant, contributor and beneficiary of B&RI, which was distributed for promotion at the tenth Belt and Road Summit and other related events;
- supervised discussions with the Chinese Mainland on further market liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment through CEPA, and on ensuring smooth implementation of the measures announced;
- worked with relevant bureaux and HKTDC to jointly organise the Hong Kong Investment Promotion Conference in Ningbo in April 2025, and the Hong Kong - The Ideal Platform for Mainland Enterprises in Going Global Promotion Conference in Shanghai in November 2025 to promote Hong Kong's unique advantages and favourable business environment for Mainland enterprises to develop their businesses and go global;
- collaborated with the Mainland authorities and HKTDC to help Hong Kong enterprises develop the Mainland domestic sales market, including through the support of HKTDC's one-stop platform "GoGBA" and its network of "GoGBA Business Support Centres" in the Greater Bay Area;
- co-ordinated through HKTDC the participation of the Hong Kong enterprises in the eighth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai to promote Hong Kong products and services to the Mainland market, and to introduce Hong Kong's role as a gateway under the national "dual circulation" strategy;
- continued to oversee the implementation of a series of initiatives to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre;
- continued to oversee efforts to promote awareness of and respect for IP rights in the community and the business sector;
- continued to oversee the implementation of the Original Grant Patent (OGP) system and enhancement of the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the system;
- continued to forge ahead with the preparatory work for the implementation of the international trade mark registration system under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol) in Hong Kong;
- continued to engage stakeholders on further enhancement to the Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528) regarding the protection for artificial intelligence (AI) technology development and oversaw the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) in formulating a code of practice in respect of relevant legal principles;
- oversaw IPD to review the registered designs regime and launched a public consultation on the way forward in updating the regime;
- oversaw the work of IPD in leading the discussion with the patent agent sector and stakeholders to plan for the introduction of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services;
- tabled subsidiary legislation under the Copyright Ordinance to specify libraries, museums and archives eligible for certain permitted acts and prescribe the conditions, and to designate non-government-owned libraries, museums or archives that can be exempted from certain criminal liabilities;
- tabled subsidiary legislation under the High Court Ordinance (Cap. 4), the Patents Ordinance (Cap. 514), the Registered Designs Ordinance (Cap. 522) and the Trade Marks Ordinance (Cap. 559) to streamline IP litigation processes in the High Court and the proceedings before the statutory registries of IPD;
- oversaw IPD in establishing a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in relation to IP in Hong Kong under a dedicated programme run by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
- oversaw IPD in making preparations for supporting the TISC in Hong Kong in providing local small and medium innovation and technology (I&T) enterprises with patent evaluation based on national standards upon TISC's official operation, and launching a two-year programme to subsidise patent valuation as a reference for credit financing;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- collaborated with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) to launch an IP financing sandbox to assist pilot sectors (particularly the technology sector) in leveraging IPs for financing with the support of the banking, insurance, valuation, legal and other professions;
- worked with HKTDC to promote IP financing in the Business of IP Asia Forum 2025;
- oversaw IPD in making preparations for nominating local enterprises to compete for the China Patent Award;
- reviewed the IP tax deduction arrangements to promote IP trading in Hong Kong and conducted a trade consultation on the proposals to be introduced;
- oversaw participation in the WIPO Lex-Judgments Database, sharing important IP case precedents of local courts, so as to showcase to the international community the quality of our IP-related judicial judgments;
- continued to work on the planning for new convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and consolidate the international status of Hong Kong's convention and exhibition industry;
- continued to implement the Incentive Scheme for Recurrent Exhibitions (ISRE) and the ISRE 2.0 launched on 1 July 2025;
- continued to take forward the development of TSW Phase 3 Information Technology (IT) system, including system development, user acceptance tests and various system tests, as well as preparation of production rollout;
- continued to oversee measures taken by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) to enhance cargo clearance efficiency and expedite cross-boundary cargo flow, including the Single E-lock Scheme (SELS), the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme, the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (FTA Scheme), the Air-land Fresh Land (ALFL) and the Cross-boundary Express Cargo Clearance Facilitation Arrangement (CEFA);
- continued to implement measures to underpin the further development of wine and liquor-related businesses in Hong Kong; and
- worked on legislative amendments and launched industry consultation for facilitating the digitalisation of business-to-business trade documents with reference to the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR) advocated by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

7 In 2026–27, the Bureau will:

- continue to steer the work of the GoGlobal Task Force and co-ordinate various bureaux, departments and agencies in formulating diverse proposals for Mainland enterprises looking to go global through Hong Kong;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the ETE, under which ETOs, Invest Hong Kong and HKTDC will work closely to support local SMEs and start-ups in exploring overseas markets through outbound visits, while bringing in more enterprises to invest in and establish businesses in Hong Kong, thereby promoting dual-way flow of enterprises and investments;
- continue to step up global promotion of Hong Kong's business advantages, strengthen outreach to investors and attract multinational companies to set up regional or global operations in Hong Kong so as to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the National 15th Five-Year Plan, the Greater Bay Area development and B&RI;
- continue to collaborate with various departments, agencies and stakeholders in conducting external promotion work to enhance Hong Kong's international image in trade and investment, cultural promotion, and talent attraction in support of other bureaux/offices through our overseas network;
- continue to strengthen policy work related to overseas ETOs, including enhancing their functions and expanding the ETO network;
- continue to monitor developments on various regional economic integration initiatives and explore opportunities for Hong Kong's participation, including seeking early accession to RCEP;
- continue to oversee discussions or negotiations with trading partners on enhancement of economic co-operation, including the signing of concluded IPPAs and the pursuit of IPPA initiatives with, among others, Saudi Arabia and Egypt;
- continue to closely monitor the bilateral trade relations between the Chinese Mainland and other economies such as the US and the EU as well as their trade actions or other measures related to Hong Kong, and assess their impact on Hong Kong's economy; and maintain close communication with the trade;
- continue to monitor the developments with respect to actions taken under the WTO framework in order to safeguard Hong Kong's rights and interests; and continue to maintain close communication with the trade;
- continue to oversee participation in the work of the WTO, including safeguarding Hong Kong's rights through contributing to the ongoing negotiations and discussions at the WTO, and monitoring and responding to trade

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

restrictive measures which impacted on Hong Kong's trade interests and posed systemic risks to the multilateral trading system;

- continue to oversee participation in the work of the APEC;
- continue to support the Financial Secretary in formulating packages of preferential policies to attract high value-added industries and high-potential enterprises to set up in Hong Kong; and oversee the application of the preferential policy packages during Invest Hong Kong's negotiation with enterprises;
- continue to serve as the Secretariat of the Working Group on Promoting Silver Economy led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, which co-ordinates efforts of relevant bureaux to implement measures for developing silver economy in five areas;
- continue to work with TID and the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to step up the promotion of government funding schemes and strengthen support to SMEs in capacity building;
- continue to work with TID and HKPC to implement the BUD Fund to support Hong Kong enterprises in exploring diversified markets through developing brands, upgrading and restructuring operations and promoting sales, expanding the geographical scope of the BUD Fund to cover eight more economies in addition to the Chinese Mainland and other FTA and/or IPPA markets, increasing the funding ceiling for "Easy BUD", providing targeted support to enterprises for implementing projects with AI measures, as well as enhancing promotion and facilitating the participation of Hong Kong enterprises in exhibitions and export marketing activities through "Easy BUD";
- continue to work with TID to implement the EMF to support Hong Kong enterprises in exploring the Chinese Mainland, overseas and local markets, and consolidate the EMF into the BUD Fund upon expiry of the former's special measure in end-June 2026;
- continue to co-ordinate bureaux and departments in formulating policies and measures on the development of cross-border e-commerce, including working with HKTDC to organise HKSF for both the Chinese Mainland and ASEAN markets, working with TID, HKTDC and HKPC to enhance support for SMEs to develop brands and e-commerce business through the Mentorship Programme (Branding and E-commerce Development) and the "Creativity · E-commerce – Beyond Limits" programme;
- continue to work with HKMC Insurance Limited to implement the SFGS to help ease the cash flow problem of SMEs;
- continue to work with HKECIC to enhance export credit insurance coverage for exporters through various support measures;
- continue to implement PASS to provide funding support for non-profit-making projects undertaken by non-profit distributing organisations, including implementing the PSP to subsidise major professional bodies to participate in relevant activities;
- continue to proactively consolidate Hong Kong's unique advantages and positioning as the functional platform for the B&RI by reinforcing co-operation with relevant Mainland authorities, aligning with our country's B&R work focuses and maintaining ties with other stakeholders and governments along the B&R, including convening the ninth Joint Conference with the Central Authorities; organising the Belt and Road Summit and assisting Hong Kong enterprises to interface with enterprises from the Chinese Mainland and B&R countries to jointly explore business opportunities; reaching out to agencies in charge of projects in B&R countries and regions to strive for more B&R project matching opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and professional services; and promoting B&R capacity building platforms in Hong Kong by co-ordinating with Hong Kong's public organisations and institutes to provide training for the personnel of B&R countries;
- continue to oversee efforts for seeking better market access and facilitation of trade and investment on the Chinese Mainland through CEPA, especially in strategic locations such as the Greater Bay Area and Hainan;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities and HKTDC to help Hong Kong enterprises promote their products and services to the Mainland market;
- continue to co-ordinate Hong Kong's participation in CIIE;
- continue to oversee the implementation of a series of initiatives to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre;
- continue to oversee efforts to promote awareness of and respect for IP rights in the community and the business sector;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the OGP system and enhancement of the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the system;
- continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong and strive for the implementation of the international trade mark registration system as soon as possible;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- continue to engage stakeholders on further enhancement to the Copyright Ordinance regarding the protection for AI technology development and oversee IPD in formulating a code of practice in respect of relevant legal principles;
- put forward a proposal to update the registered designs regime following public consultation;
- continue to oversee the work of IPD in leading the discussions with the patent agent sector and stakeholders to plan for the introduction of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services;
- continue to oversee IPD in supporting the TISC in Hong Kong in providing local small and medium I&T enterprises with patent evaluation based on national standards, and launching a two-year pilot programme to subsidise patent valuation as a reference for credit financing;
- continue to collaborate with HKMA in running and reviewing the IP financing sandbox;
- continue to oversee IPD in making preparations for nominating local enterprises to compete for the China Patent Award;
- put forward proposals to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) regarding IP tax deduction arrangements following the trade consultation;
- promote the further development of the convention and exhibition industry and brand-building by attracting large-scale international exhibition events with new elements to Hong Kong in a more focused and strategic manner;
- continue to plan for new convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and consolidate the international status of Hong Kong's convention and exhibition industry;
- continue to implement the ISRE 2.0 with a view to further promoting mega event economy and the development of the convention and exhibition industry and explore opportunities to further enhance the development of the industry;
- continue to take forward the development of TSW Phase 3 IT system with a target of rolling out the services by batches from mid-2026;
- continue to oversee the work of C&ED in promoting SELS, the Hong Kong AEO Programme, FTA Scheme, ALFL and CEFA to the trade, and in further extending the coverage of SELS, FTA Scheme, Hong Kong's network of AEO mutual recognition arrangement with other economies, ALFL as well as CEFA;
- continue to support the further development of wine and liquor-related businesses in Hong Kong; and
- put forward a legislative proposal within 2026 with reference to the MLETR so as to provide the legal basis for the digitalisation of business-to-business trade documents.

Programme (3): Telecommunications

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	122.1	260.1	166.9 (–35.8%)	125.6 (–24.7%)
				(or –51.7% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

8 The aim is to facilitate the development of the telecommunications industry and enhance Hong Kong's position as a telecommunications hub.

Brief Description

9 The Bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate telecommunications policies and programmes to facilitate effective competition, enhance consumer choice and promote investments in the development of a competitive, advanced and high bandwidth infrastructure accessible by consumers through wireline or wireless means. This will enhance Hong Kong's position as a world-class telecommunications centre.

10 During 2025–26, the Bureau:

- worked with the Communications Authority (CA) to review and release radio spectrum in various frequency bands for the provision of public mobile services including the fifth generation mobile (5G) and beyond services;
- worked with CA to host the 6G Global Summit 2025 to gather industry experts and policy makers for discussion in 6G-related issues;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- worked with CA to conduct a spectrum auction for re-assignment of 50 MHz of frequency spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band and related spectrum utilization fee upon the expiry of the existing assignments in 2028;
- worked with CA to make available 1.4 GHz band as a dedicated spectrum for establishing, maintaining and operating radiocommunications installation for unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operations and launch the licencing regime of the new UAS (Private) Licence to support the development of low-altitude economy;
- worked with the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) to enhance mobile communications infrastructure, including facilitating mobile network operators (MNOs)' applications for installation of radio base stations in suitable government premises, major public event venues and public facilities;
- worked with CA to implement the amended Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) to ensure that appropriate space would be made available in specified new buildings for installation of mobile communications facilities to encourage MNO's investment in communications infrastructure;
- worked with OFCA to implement a subsidy scheme to encourage the extension of optical fibre networks to villages in rural and remote areas so as to further enhance the higher speed fixed broadband network coverage;
- worked with OFCA to launch a subsidy scheme to enhance the mobile network coverage in rural and remote areas;
- worked with OFCA to monitor the effectiveness of measures for safeguarding consumers' interests;
- worked with OFCA to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the legislation in facilitating market competition and the fair trading practices of telecommunications and broadcasting licensees;
- worked with OFCA to combat scam calls and messages jointly with law enforcement agencies through a multi-pronged approach so as to safeguard the integrity of telecommunications services and the security of communications networks;
- worked with OFCA to review the implementation of the Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identification Module Cards (RNR Programme) and consider enhancement proposals to the RNR Programme in combating phone deception;
- worked with OFCA to encourage public bodies and private organisations in more trades/industries to join the SMS Sender Registration Scheme in order to assist the public in ascertaining the authenticity of SMS sender addresses;
- worked with OFCA to conduct a study on streamlining the vetting procedures of licence applications for operating Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites; and
- worked with CA to prepare for the implementation of the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance (Cap. 653) in the telecommunications sector.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

11 During 2026–27, the Bureau will continue to:

- work with OFCA to enhance mobile communications infrastructure including facilitating MNOs' applications for installation of radio base stations in suitable government premises, major public event venues and public facilities;
- oversee the implementation of the amended Telecommunications Ordinance to ensure that appropriate space is made available in specified new buildings for installation of mobile communications facilities;
- work with OFCA to implement a subsidy scheme to encourage the extension of optical fibre networks to villages in rural and remote areas so as to further enhance the higher speed fixed broadband network coverage;
- work with OFCA to implement a subsidy scheme to extend 5G coverage in rural and remote areas to enhance the mobile network coverage in rural and remote areas;
- work with OFCA to monitor the effectiveness of measures for safeguarding consumers' interests;
- work with OFCA to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the legislation in facilitating market competition and the fair trading practices of the telecommunications and broadcasting licensees;
- work with OFCA to monitor the implementation of the RNR Programme and introduce legislative proposals into the Legislative Council to further enhance the RNR Programme;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- work with OFCA to combat scam calls and messages jointly with law enforcement agencies through a multi-pronged approach so as to safeguard the integrity of telecommunications services and the security of communications networks;
- work with OFCA to encourage public bodies and private organisations in more trades/industries to join the SMS Sender Registration Scheme in order to assist the public in ascertaining the authenticity of SMS sender addresses;
- work with OFCA to complete the study on streamlining the vetting procedures of licence applications for operating LEO satellites; and
- work with CA to implement the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance for designated critical infrastructure operators in the telecommunications sector.

Programme (4): Broadcasting

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	21.1	12.8	11.8 (–7.8%)	13.3 (+12.7%)
				(or +3.9% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

12 The aim is to promote the development of broadcasting and enhance Hong Kong's position as a broadcasting capital.

Brief Description

13 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies on broadcasting, control of obscene and indecent articles, and film censorship; and to promote the development of the broadcasting industry.

14 The key performance is measured by the extent to which the policy objectives have been achieved and the progress made in implementing the various policy commitments. It is also reflected by the extent to which the executive departments have accomplished their programmes efficiently and cost-effectively.

15 During 2025–26, the Bureau:

- assisted in the licensing and regulatory matters in relation to the domestic free television programme services, domestic pay television programme services and sound broadcasting services;
- continued to oversee Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in fulfilling its mission as a public service broadcaster; and
- worked with CA to prepare for the implementation of the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance in the broadcasting sector.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

16 During 2026–27, the Bureau will continue to:

- assist in the licensing and regulatory matters in relation to the domestic free television programme services, domestic pay television programme services and sound broadcasting services;
- oversee RTHK in fulfilling its mission as a public service broadcaster; and
- work with CA to implement the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance in the broadcasting sector.

Programme (5): Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	20.9	10.2	10.2 (—)	10.2 (—)
				(or same as 2025–26 Original)

Aim

17 The aims are to promote economic efficiency in the delivery of postal services; to promote competition; and to protect consumer interests.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Brief Description

18 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies and programmes in relation to postal services, the promotion of economic efficiency and free market through competition, and the protection of consumer interests.

19 During 2025–26, the Bureau:

- monitored the implementation of the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (CO);
- published the annual report of the Competition Policy Advisory Group (COMPAG) for the year 2024 on the COMPAG website, and continued to co-ordinate the work of government bureaux and departments in promoting competition;
- monitored the implementation of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) in tackling unfair trade practices that may be deployed in consumer transactions;
- conducted a comprehensive review of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance with a view to launching public consultation on legislative proposals for enhancing the protection of consumers' rights and interests and combatting more effectively common unfair trade practices;
- monitored the operation of the Post Office Trading Fund (POTF) and worked with Hongkong Post (HKP) on measures to improve POTF's financial position; and
- reviewed and decided to terminate the redevelopment plan of the Air Mail Centre (AMC) and monitored the development of the replacement proposal to enhance the facilities and efficiency of the existing AMC.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

20 During 2026–27, the Bureau will continue to:

- monitor the implementation of the CO in tackling anti-competitive conduct in different sectors and consider measures to enhance the effectiveness of the competition regime;
- support the work of COMPAG;
- consider the way forward for the proposed legislative amendments of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, taking into account the views received during public consultation, for enhancing the protection of consumers' rights and interests and combatting more effectively common unfair trade practices;
- monitor the implementation of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance in tackling unfair trade practices that may be deployed in consumer transactions;
- monitor the operation of POTF and work with HKP on measures to improve POTF's financial position; and
- monitor the development of the replacement proposal to enhance the facilities and efficiency of the existing AMC.

Programme (6): Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	551.4	508.7	510.5 (+0.4%)	502.9 (–1.5%)
				(or –1.1% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

21 The aim is to help HKTDC perform its statutory functions, i.e. to promote, assist and develop Hong Kong's trade with places outside Hong Kong, with particular reference to exports; and to make recommendations to the Government as it sees fit in relation to any measures which it considers would achieve an increase in Hong Kong's trade.

Brief Description

22 Established in 1966, HKTDC is a statutory body to promote Hong Kong's external trade in goods and services, and to promote the city's role as an international business hub. With 51 offices globally, including 13 on the Chinese Mainland, HKTDC:

- promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with the Chinese Mainland and worldwide including the platform for Mainland enterprises to go global, as a commercial hub for the B&RI, and as a two-way platform for the Greater Bay Area and a facilitation hub for ASEAN and RCEP;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- organises international trade fairs and industry conferences, international trade promotion events and business missions to help Hong Kong companies seize opportunities on the Chinese Mainland and around the world, as well as operates a virtual event platform and a sourcing platform to complement its physical events;
- provides market information through hktdc.com, research reports and its research portal, and a market intelligence website “Hong Kong Means Business” and a one-stop platform “GoGBA” that gives business wide-ranging support to help tap into Greater Bay Area opportunities;
- runs support programmes to help start-ups and SMEs enhance their capabilities and market expansion; and
- reinforces Hong Kong as a global marketplace in the Asia-Pacific region through corporate relations and business promotion activities around the world, including support for six bilateral committees and 49 Hong Kong business associations in 38 countries and regions.

23 The key performance measures in respect of promoting Hong Kong’s external trade are:

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
trade and services promotion			
events	655	673	670
companies participating	76 767	74 843	72 872
local fairs			
no. of Mainland and overseas buyers	387 786	401 682	394 705
no. of fairs	37	37	37
business-matching enquiries worldwide			
no. of business enquiries handled	3 573 843	3 598 777	N.A.‡
no. of business connections made	21 820 911	21 939 894	N.A.‡
trade portal (hktdc.com)			
no. of new registered users	257 417	262 272	N.A.‡
no. of visits to online sourcing platform	14 161 988	14 223 849	N.A.‡
no. of advertisers	28 387	27 006	N.A.‡

‡ At present, HKTDC fairs operate under the Exhibition+ in hybrid model. HKTDC plans to review the existing performance indicators, which are primarily derived from the online sourcing platform hktdc.com, and introduce new parameters to better illustrate the effectiveness of its new hybrid trading platform. The new indicators will be provided in due course following the review.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

24 In 2026–27, HKTDC will:

- help Hong Kong and international businesses capitalise on the promising opportunities offered by the National 15th Five-Year Plan with the Greater Bay Area development as a central theme;
- position Hong Kong as the ideal two-way business hub for the Greater Bay Area, ASEAN and the wider RCEP with the rest of the world;
- under the steer of the GoGlobal Task Force, provide support services to the Mainland enterprises seeking to go global via Hong Kong, including setting up a cross-sectoral service platform for matching Hong Kong professional and business service providers with Mainland enterprises;
- collaborate with overseas ETOs and Invest Hong Kong to take forward the various initiatives under ETE;
- support SMEs and start-ups to grow and transform amid the world’s new digital and sustainability agenda;
- promote awareness of Hong Kong brands, including silver product brands on Mainland e-commerce platforms to develop the national domestic sales market;
- complement the Government’s efforts in promoting the development of silver economy by incorporating “silver economy” elements into more trade fairs and exhibitions to enhance the promotion of relevant products and services;
- promote Hong Kong as a multifaceted investment, trade and innovation hub as well as preferred platform for brand building to the Chinese Mainland and international audience;
- reinforce Hong Kong’s position as the business and deal-making hub in Asia with a focus on new sectors such as healthcare and sustainability to facilitate opportunities; and
- offer an enriched fair and conference experience, enhance the sourcing journey and facilitate business matching and deal-making with digital technologies.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Programme (7): Subvention: Consumer Council

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	160.6	160.5	161.2 (+0.4%)	144.8 (–10.2%)
				(or –9.8% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

25 The aim is to protect and promote the interests of consumers of goods and services.

Brief Description

26 The Consumer Council (the Council) is an independent body established under the Consumer Council Ordinance (Cap. 216). The Council discharges its functions by:

- collecting, receiving and disseminating information concerning goods, services and immovable property;
- examining complaints and giving advice to consumers;
- tendering advice to the Government on ways to enhance consumer protection;
- conducting product tests and research;
- encouraging business and professional associations to establish codes of practice to regulate the activities of their members;
- monitoring trade practices;
- facilitating consumers to seek redress through the use of the Consumer Legal Action Fund; and
- empowering consumers through education and publicity campaigns.

27 The key performance measures in respect of protection and promotion of consumer interests are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
handling consumer enquiries				
telephone calls answered within three minutes (%)	80	100	99	80
waiting time for over-the-counter enquiry service not to exceed ten minutes (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing reply in writing within ten working days (%).....	100	89#	92β	100
handling consumer complaints				
telephone calls answered within three minutes (%)	80	100	99	80
in writing				
issuing preliminary reply within five working days (%).....	100	99	99	100
notifying complainants of results/progress within nine working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
release of “CHOICE” articles on product testing, research, survey results and complaint cases once per month (%)¶.....	100	100	100	100

Only 89 per cent of the enquiries could meet the target owing to the sudden surge in the number of cases from various consumer dispute incidents in 2024.

β Only 92 per cent of the enquiries could meet the target owing to the sudden surge in the number of cases from various consumer dispute incidents in 2025.

¶ Description of the previous target “publications of ‘CHOICE’ and release of product testing, research and survey results once per month” has been revised from 2026 onwards. Following the dissemination of “CHOICE” articles on the Council’s website since 2025, the printed version has been gradually phased out.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
consumer complaints.....	40 839	38 187	39 000
consumer enquiries.....	57 613	51 575	50 760
product tests^.....	37	33	30
consumer surveys^.....	28	19	23
in-depth studies^.....	15	27	26
studies of general interestΨ.....	48	48	—
response to consultation from the Government and other public bodies⊖.....	11	16	10
consumer education programmes#.....	282	201	150
circulation of publications@.....	168 000	108 000	90 000
social media postsΨ.....	—	—	500

^ Each year, the Council conducts product tests, consumer surveys and in-depth studies. The figures for the indicators are estimated having regard to a broad range of factors such as the time required by the laboratories to complete the product tests and the complexity of the subject matters. The actual number of product tests, consumer surveys and in-depth studies is subject to the evolving trend of consumer issues in the year.

Ψ The indicator “studies of general interest” (i.e. bite-sized social media posts on consumer protection tips and advice posted on the Council’s WeChat account) will be replaced by the new indicator “social media posts”, which has an expanded scope covering all social media posts uploaded by the Council, from 2026 onwards.

⊖ The number of responses to consultation depends on the number of consultations conducted by the Government and other public bodies during the year. The figure for the coming year is an indicative forecast only.

The number of consumer education programmes is adjusted downwards owing to the review and redesign of the content of various education programmes, and the redeployment of resources to develop new consumer education initiatives, including those targeting the elderly.

@ “CHOICE” articles have been disseminated for free on the Council’s website starting from January 2025. As a transitional arrangement, the Council will continue to distribute complimentary printed copies to elderly centres, libraries, schools, shopping malls, etc. to cater for the needs of certain groups of readers (e.g. the elderly), and hence there will be a significant reduction in the number of copies for circulation.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

28 During 2026–27, the Council will:

- continue to complement the Government’s efforts in promoting the development of silver economy by stepping up efforts to safeguard the rights and interests of elderly consumers; and
- advocate the protection of consumers’ rights and interests in respect of cross-border e-commerce consumer activities.

Programme (8): Subvention: Competition Commission

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	191.5	187.6	132.4 (–29.4%)	189.7 (+43.3%)
				(or +1.1% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

29 The aim is to help the Competition Commission (the Commission) to implement the CO.

Brief Description

30 The Commission is an independent statutory body established under the CO in 2013. The Commission’s statutory functions are to:

- investigate conduct that may contravene the competition rules and enforce the provisions of the CO;
- promote public understanding of the value of competition and how the CO promotes competition;
- promote the adoption by undertakings carrying on business in Hong Kong of appropriate internal controls and risk management systems, to ensure their compliance with the CO;
- advise the Government on competition matters in Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- conduct market studies into matters affecting competition in markets in Hong Kong; and
- promote research into and the development of skills in relation to the legal, economic and policy aspects of competition law in Hong Kong.

31 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
handling enquiries and complaints				
acknowledge enquiries or complaints				
within two working days of				
receipt (%)	95	100	100	95
reply to enquiries or complaints on				
the result or progress within				
28 working days of receipt (%)	95	100	100	95
handling applications for Decisions and				
Block Exemption Orders				
acknowledge applications within				
two working days of receipt (%)	95	N.A.	N.A.	95
respond to requests for fee waiver or				
reduction within seven working				
days of receipt (%).....	95	N.A.	N.A.	95
handling requests for seminars and				
presentations				
acknowledge requests within				
two working days of receipt (%)	95	99	99	95
respond to requests within				
ten working days of receipt (%)	95	99	99	95

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
enforcement			
enquiries received.....	380	333	340
complaints received.....	319	361	370
initial assessments commenced ^Ψ	7	10	— [^]
cases escalated to in-depth investigation ^Δ	4	3	— [^]
cases brought to the Competition Tribunal	0	0	— [^]
cases resolved by Commitments, issuing of			
Infringement Notices and Warning Notices	0	0	— [^]
applications for Decisions and Block Exemption Orders			
received.....	0	0	— [^]
major market study launched	0	0	1 [§]
publicity and advocacy			
major publicity or education campaigns launched.....	2	2	2
events, seminars, conferences and exhibitions			
conducted.....	60	65	65 ^λ
major international events, seminars and conferences			
participated in	8	8	8
newsletters published	3	3	3
outreach on online platforms	170	170	170 ^λ

^Ψ The Commission considers all complaints it receives and escalates those that merit further assessment into the initial assessment phase. Enquiries which present merit for further assessment will also be escalated into the initial assessment phase. Pursuant to the CO, the Commission does not investigate complaints that are misconceived, lacking in substance, trivial, frivolous or vexatious.

[^] Not possible to estimate.

^Δ Where following initial assessment the Commission has reasonable cause to suspect a contravention of a competition rule under the CO, the Commission will commence an in-depth investigation.

[§] Subject to accessibility of sufficient data/information.

^λ The numbers are indicative only and are subject to any necessary adjustments of the publicity and advocacy strategy to tally with the enforcement activities, enforcement/litigation outcomes and other ad hoc initiatives during the year. This will lead to corresponding changes in resource allocation and hence the numbers as indicated.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

32 During 2026–27, the Commission will:

- continue to handle complaints of and conduct investigations into cases alleging to contravene a competition rule and to escalate suitable cases to in-depth investigation;
- continue the in-depth investigation with the aim to settling suitable cases by issuing commitments, infringement notices or warning notices, or bringing cases to the Competition Tribunal;
- continue the litigation processes for cases already brought to the Competition Tribunal;
- continue to promote understanding and compliance of the CO by businesses and the public through campaigns, education programmes, outreach activities, publications, seminars, presentations and online platforms;
- continue to consider applications for Decisions whether or not an agreement or conduct is excluded or exempt from the First or Second Conduct Rules and for Block Exemption Orders; and
- continue to advise the Government and public bodies on competition matters, including measures to enhance the effectiveness of the competition regime.

**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau's Office	16.5	16.8	16.7	16.9
(2) Commerce and Industry	13,445.9	12,909.1	11,583.3	12,540.1
(3) Telecommunications	122.1	260.1	166.9	125.6
(4) Broadcasting	21.1	12.8	11.8	13.3
(5) Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection	20.9	10.2	10.2	10.2
(6) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council	551.4	508.7	510.5	502.9
(7) Subvention: Consumer Council	160.6	160.5	161.2	144.8
(8) Subvention: Competition Commission	191.5	187.6	132.4	189.7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,530.0	14,065.8	12,593.0 (-10.5%)	13,543.5 (+7.5%)
				(or -3.7% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$0.2 million (1.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the increased provision for personal emoluments.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$956.8 million (8.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the less-than-expected cash flow requirement for the SFGS – Guarantee Products in 2025–26. The 2026–27 original estimate of the SFGS – Guarantee Products is same as that of 2025–26.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$41.3 million (24.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$1.5 million (12.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments.

Programme (5)

Provision for 2026–27 is the same as the revised estimate for 2025–26.

Programme (6)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$7.6 million (1.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the lapse of a time-limited recurrent subvention and reduced operational expenses of HKTDC.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

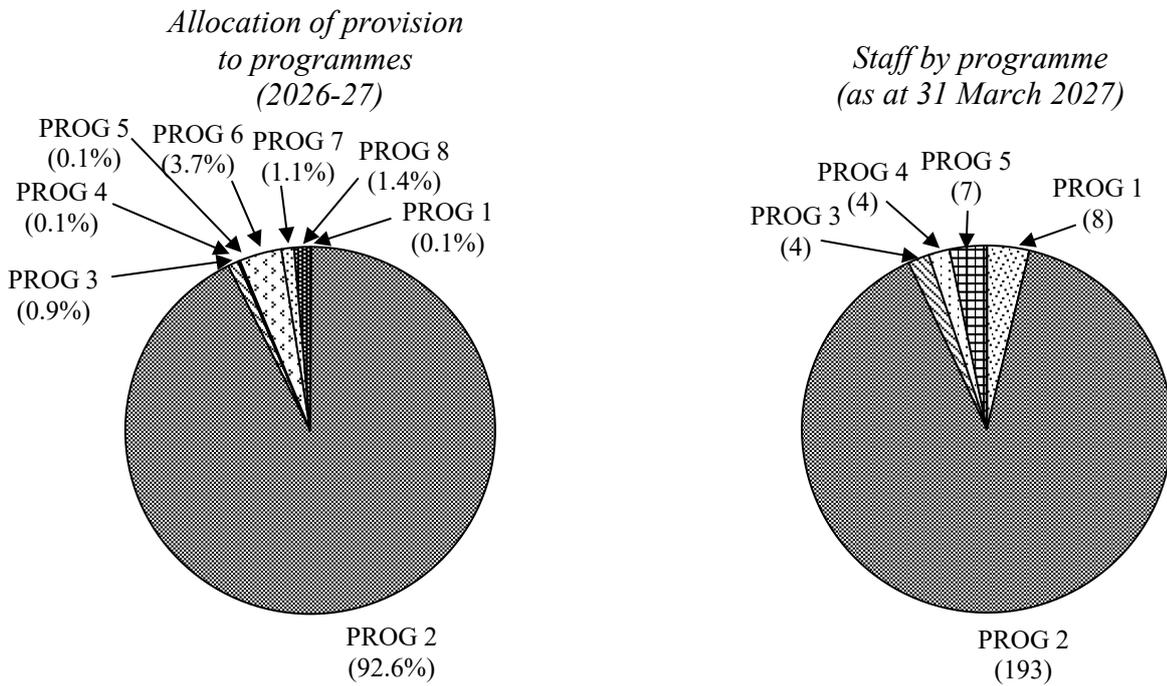
Programme (7)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$16.4 million (10.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decrease in provision for the Council, following the Council’s streamlining of duties in respect of conducting studies and related liaison work and the completion of the Council’s IT initiatives targeting the elderly and other system enhancements.

Programme (8)

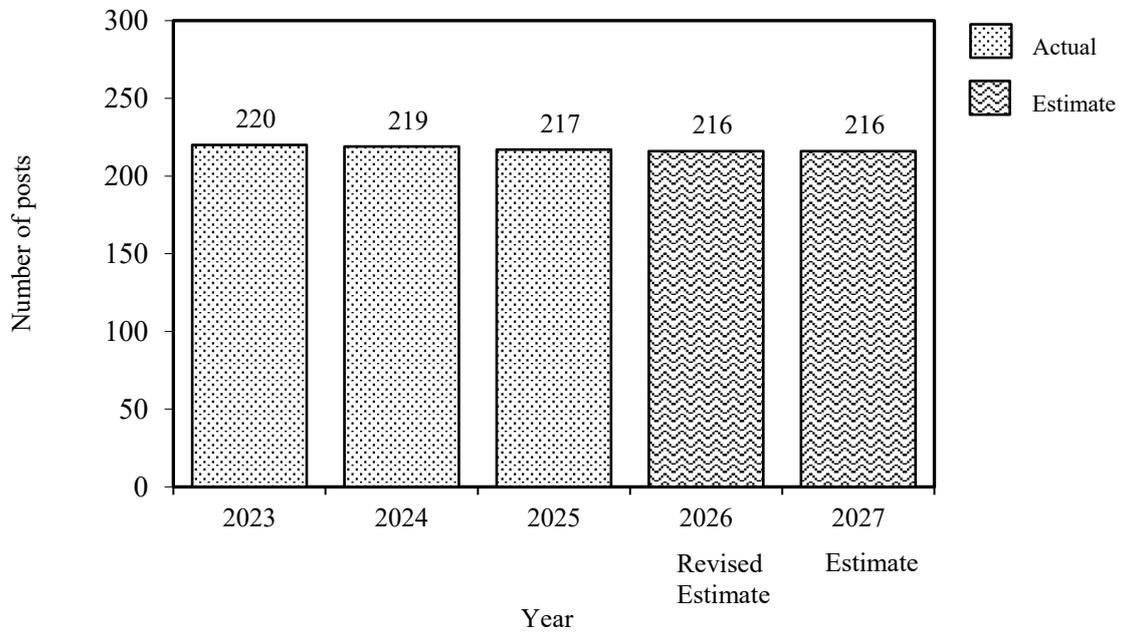
Provision for 2026–27 is \$57.3 million (43.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to decrease in provision required for the Commission’s litigation work in 2025–26 based on the latest investigation and litigation progress.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU



(No government staff under PROG 6, 7 & 8)

Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	1,204,034	1,194,940	1,154,452	1,235,139
	Total, Recurrent	1,204,034	1,194,940	1,154,452	1,235,139
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	13,304,591	12,851,776	11,417,820	12,298,517
	Total, Non-Recurrent	13,304,591	12,851,776	11,417,820	12,298,517
	Total, Operating Account	14,508,625	14,046,716	12,572,272	13,533,656
Capital Account					
Subventions					
88L	Hong Kong Trade Development Council (block vote)	—	—	—	5,000
970	Consumer Council (block vote)	15,363	16,539	16,539	4,880
	Consumer Council	6,061	2,539	4,231	—
	Total, Subventions	21,424	19,078	20,770	9,880
	Total, Capital Account	21,424	19,078	20,770	9,880
	Total Expenditure	14,530,049	14,065,794	12,593,042	13,543,536

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau is \$13,543,536,000. This represents an increase of \$950,494,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and a decrease of \$986,513,000 against the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,235,139,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 216 posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2026–27, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$159,779,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Original) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$'000)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	198,253	207,297	199,571	215,699
- Allowances	7,745	8,348	6,405	6,499
- Job-related allowances.....	2	4	—	4
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	333	250	343	231
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	15,378	19,315	16,131	19,789
- Disturbance allowance.....	137	—	—	—
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	114,554	130,928	110,325	180,754
Other Charges				
- Subscription to the World Trade Organization.....	48,191	52,286	44,357	50,393
Subventions				
- Consumer Council.....	139,212	141,355	140,363	139,856
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council.....	551,390	508,686	510,486	497,881
- Competition Commission.....	128,839	126,471	126,471	124,033
	1,204,034	1,194,940	1,154,452	1,235,139

Capital Account

Subventions

5 Provision of \$5 million under *Subhead 88L Hong Kong Trade Development Council (block vote)* is for HKTDC to set up a new digital platform of cross-sectoral services under the GoGlobal Task Force to support Mainland enterprises to go global via Hong Kong.

6 Provision of \$4,880,000 under *Subhead 970 Consumer Council (block vote)* is for the procurement of plant, vehicles and equipment each costing above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million. The decrease of \$11,659,000 (70.5%) against the revised estimate for 2025–26 is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement following the completion of the Council's IT initiative targeting the elderly and other system enhancements.

**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700	<i>General non-recurrent</i>					
801	Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme		200,000	68,766	12,000	119,234
804	Funding for Competition Commission's litigation work.....		238,346	150,840	5,890	81,616
814	Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas.....		774,400	512,937	158,930	102,533
815	Incentive Scheme for Recurrent Exhibitions.....		1,900,000	937,542	861,000	101,458
817	Subsidy Scheme to Extend 5G Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas.....		154,000	—	—	154,000
833	SME Financing Guarantee Scheme – Guarantee Products#.....		310,000,000	25,940,100	10,380,000	273,679,900
	Total		313,266,746	27,610,185	11,417,820	274,238,741

The approved commitment for the item was \$290 billion. An increase in commitment of \$20 billion is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2026. This will result in an increase in the expected maximum expenditure by \$3,060 million.